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EDITORIAL

THE TOWER OF BABEL.

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ON the same day that the Supreme Court of the United States, a body consisting mainly of Republicans, handed down a decision upholding the recent Federal law on railroads against two States, the Republican Secretary of War, William H. Taft, who is the leading Republican candidate for the presidency, delivered an address in Trenton, N.J., in which he deprecated, expressed fear of, and warned against the centralization of power in the Federal Government. Pro-centralization, anti-centralization both upheld on one day by leading authorities of the same party!

These be no insignificant events. The story of the Tower of Babel, like all stories, teaches a lesson and has its moral. When confusion of languages sets in, disintegration follows inevitably. People who talk at cross-purposes can not move together. Action becomes impossible. We are again in the days of the Tower of Babel conditions.

There, no doubt, are two or more capitalists who are fully agreed upon "what it all means." These few realize that the "jig is up." That is to say, they realize that the form of government under which capitalism developed has become inadequate any longer to robe capitalism in. They realize also that the day is over when the veil of platitudes can conceal the fact of despotism. To these few it is perfectly clear that "democracy" has outlived its day, and that if capitalism continues to observe the forms of "democracy" it does so at its peril. To these few, for whom capitalism is a necessity "sacred," "religious" and "patriotic" there is no question but that the Republic must be overthrown. But these clear-headed few are few, indeed. Within their own capitalist camp there are shades of opinion that run out into utter opposites. Some of them believe the sham of "democracy" can still be upheld; some others do not look upon "democracy" as an utter sham: to them, of course,

“democracy” does not include the whole people: nevertheless, they entertain for the sham quite a sentiment, and are swayed by the sentiment: others, again, still cling to the sham, not out of sentiment, but out of a notion that there is something in it for them; finally others stick to present forms out of pure habit. Let loose the tongues of these various groups, and the present Tower of Babel confusion will result.

Out of the present Tower of Babel confusion of tongues one note rises clear. It is the counter-echo of the identical confusion. The note proclaims:

“Democracy depends wholly upon the Socialist Movement. Only with Socialism rests the power to block the path of despotism and institute freedom.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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